Catch the only 'supermoon' of 2017 on Sunday — no telescope needed. 1B

Tampa Bay Times

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER | tampabay.com | ★★★★ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017 | $1

Flynn admits lying to FBI

The president's ex-national security adviser pleads guilty and will cooperate with the special counsel's investigation.

New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about conversations with the Russian ambassador last December, becoming the first senior White House official to cut a cooperation deal in the special counsel's wide-ranging inquiry into election interference.

Flynn's discussions with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador, were part of a coordinated effort by Trump's aides to create foreign policy before they were in power, documents released as part of Flynn's plea agreement show. Their efforts undermined the existing policy of President Barack Obama and flouted a warning from a senior Obama administration official to stop meddling in foreign affairs before the inauguration.

The documents do not disclose what Trump knew about Flynn's discussions. But in at least one instance, prosecutors say, Flynn was directed by a "very senior member" of the presidential transition team to discuss a U.N. resolution. Trump's lawyers believe that unnamed aide was Trump's son-in-law and close adviser, Jared Kushner, a lawyer briefed on the matter told the *New York Times*.

The transition team was led by Vice President Mike Pence. Its top members included Kushner; Reince Priebus, Trump's first chief of staff; and K.T.

» See FLYNN, 4A

Getty Images

Michael Flynn leaves federal court Friday. Prosecutors say he was directed by a "very senior member" of the Trump transition team.

Tampa goes Gaga

LUIS SANTANA | Times

Jenn Lavallee of Orlando, left, waits in line at Amalie Arena with friends Jamie Smith, center, and Courtney Constable before Friday's Lady Gaga concert. The friends have been to multiple shows during the singer's Joanne World Tour.

The pop star's stop makes a splash.

Like a superhero, Lady Gaga swooped into Tampa on Friday, all rhinestones and verve, disrupting pockets of town before her sold-out concert at Amalie Arena.

In the morning, the pop chameleon's charity paid the layaway tab for about 25 needy families at a local Burlington Coat Factory. All day, fans in their finest fishnets and glitter flocked to Tampa Heights to snap selfies at a local artist's mural they believed she might visit. And shortly before showtime, she dabbled in Sunshine State politics, tweeting her support for the restoration of felons' voting rights and encouraging her 74.4 million followers to sign a petition for the cause.

It was, as they say, a day. Yet it had nothing on the night.

Around 8:45 p.m., Gaga hit the big stage — one of four dotting the Amalie floor — in a sequined pink cowboy hat and a black and silver sparkling leather ensemble, striking statuesque poses atop an elevated platform for the kicky pop-rock *Diamond Heart* and *A-Yo*, both from her latest album, *Joanne*. Then she dropped a No. 1 glitterbomb on the crowd with *Poker Face*.

"Don't you call me Gaga," she purred to the crowd. "Call me Joanne tonight!"

They were happy to oblige.

Read a review of the show at tampabay.com/blogs/soundcheck.

— Jay Cridlin, Pop Music/Culture Critic

Gaga lends a hand

The singer's foundation helps pay off families' layaway balances at a Burlington Coat Factory. **Local, 1B**

ALESSANDRA DA PRA | Time

Waldo Arencibie of Miami stops at the Gaga Mural in the 1700 block of Franklin Street in Tampa on Friday. See a gallery of Lady Gaga fans taking selfies at the mural at tampabay.com/photos/.

Parents agonize over arrest

All they can do for now is pray, say Rosita and Howell Donaldson Jr.

BY DAN SULLIVAN AND ANASTASIA DAWSON
Times Staff Writers

TAMPA — The people who knew him best have struggled to understand how police could accuse Howell "Trai" Donaldson III of striking down four strangers with gunfire, terrorizing Seminole Heights for 51 days.

His parents said they also have no explanation.

Howell Donaldson Jr. and his wife, Rosita, spoke publicly for the first time Friday evening. They appeared shell-shocked as they spoke of the 24-year-old man they raised, their heartbreak at his arrest and the sorrow they share with the families of those killed.

"We're here to support our son through this," the father told the *Tampa Bay Times*. "And we just want to let the families know that we love them. Our hearts are heavy for their loss."

Their attorney, Ralph Fernandez, wouldn't let them address the key question in all this: What led their son to face four first-degree murder charges? Why did this happen?

"We're not going to discuss anything that could impact either the prosecution or the

» See PARENTS, 9A

More on the case

The woman who turned the gun in to police will receive the $110,000 reward. **Local, 1B**

To watch an interview with Rosita and Howell Donaldson Jr., go to **video.tampabay.com.**

In the know

ARMWOOD, PLANT FIGHT TO STAY ALIVE

After 15 weeks of high school football, state powerhouses Armwood, above, and Plant were still in the playoff hunt. Find out if they made their respective championship finals at **tampabay.com/sports/hometeam/.**

Audit questions airport's spending

The study of Tampa International Airport uncovers the misuse of a state grant and raises issues with the awarding and oversight of contracts related to the facility's expansion. However, the report from the state auditor general does not conclude that there was "public corruption" at the airport. **Local, 1B**

Stage adaptation does not miss

You've probably read the book *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and now you can experience it on stage from Freefall Theatre. **Andrew Meacham review, 2B**

Hurricanes started from the bottom

A 58-0 loss at home to Clemson in October 2015 was one of the lowest points in University of Miami football history. This season Miami has returned to glory and will take on Clemson today in the ACC championship. **Sports, 1C**

American's boss confident in pilots

CEO Doug Parker, in Tampa receiving an award, said the airline "doesn't expect to cancel a single flight" because of a scheduling glitch. **Business, 4B**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Warm weekend

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
63°	77°	79°	72°

0% chance of rain

More, back page of Sports

tampabay.com

Get up and go

Itching for something fun to do but don't know what's going on? Worry not. We give you the rundown on local events at **tampabay.com/things-to-do**.

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Slow burn at FSU led Fisher to Aggies

After a mediocre season, he leaves for a richer program.

BY MATT BAKER
Times Staff Writer

There was no single moment that led coach Jimbo Fisher to bolt from Florida State University for Texas A&M.

There was no Jim McElwain death threats incident — no "point of no return" crossed by one side or the other.

This was a slow burn that grew into an inferno and finally ended Friday with the 52-year-old Fisher resigning from a program where he won a national championship, three Atlantic Coast Conference titles and an ACC-record 78 percent of his games.

Some of the embers were public.

Frustration boiled over as a season that began with a top-three ranking crumbled into mediocrity. When a fan yelled for new coaches after an October loss to Louisville, Fisher snapped for the fan to come to the field and say that.

» See FISHER, 8A

Associated Press (2015)

FSU head coach Jimbo Fisher, 52, led the Seminoles to a national championship and three Atlantic Coast Conference titles.

Who's next for FSU?

Florida State is checking out former USF coach Willie Taggart, but there could be others. **Sports, 1C**

'We have the votes' to pass tax reform

GOP senators make last-minute changes to ensure success.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans used a burst of eleventh-hour horse-trading Friday to edge a $1.4 trillion tax bill to the brink of Senate passage, as a party starved all year for a major legislative triumph took a giant step toward giving President Donald Trump one of his top priorities by Christmas.

"We have the votes," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., declared after leaders swayed holdout senators by agreeing to fatten tax breaks for millions of businesses and let people deduct local property taxes.

Party leaders hoped for late-night Senate approval on a measure that focuses the bulk of its tax reductions on businesses and higher-earning individuals, gives more modest breaks to others and would be the boldest rewrite of the nation's tax system since 1986.

» See TAXES, 4A